

What is claimed is:

1. A copyrighted digital data management method wherein,  
after a user terminal executes a data usage accounting  
5 procedure for a contents provider, enciphered copyrighted  
digital data generated by enciphering chargeable copyrighted  
digital data using encryption key data, digital sample  
preview data generated from an outline of the copyrighted  
digital data at a non-chargeable level without enciphering,  
10 decryption key data for deciphering the enciphered  
copyrighted digital data, and additional data required for  
accounting are transmitted from said contents provider to  
said user terminal over a network.

15 2. The copyrighted digital data management method  
according to claim 1, wherein said user terminal is allowed  
to reproduce the digital sample preview data but, to reproduce  
the enciphered copyrighted digital data, is required to  
decipher the enciphered copyrighted digital data with the  
20 decryption key data.

3. A copyrighted digital data management method wherein,  
after a first user terminal executes a data usage accounting  
procedure for a contents provider, enciphered copyrighted  
25 digital data generated by enciphering chargeable copyrighted  
digital data using encryption key data, digital sample  
preview data generated from an outline of the copyrighted  
digital data at a non-chargeable level without enciphering,  
decryption key data for deciphering the enciphered  
30 copyrighted digital data, and additional data required for  
accounting are transmitted from said contents provider to  
said first user terminal over a network and recorded on a data  
recording medium in said first user terminal, and  
wherein, when the data recorded on said data recording medium  
35 in said first user terminal is copied to a data recording  
medium in a second user terminal over the network, the

enciphered copyrighted digital data, the digital sample preview data, and the additional data are transmitted from said first user terminal to said second user terminal over the network or a leased line.

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4. The copyrighted digital data management method according to claim 3 wherein said first user terminal does not transmit the decryption key data to said second user terminal.

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5. The copyrighted digital data management method according to claim 3 wherein, after said second user terminal executes the data usage accounting procedure for said contents provider, said contents provider transmits the decryption key data for deciphering the enciphered copyrighted digital data to said second user terminal over the network.

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6. The copyrighted digital data management method according to claim 5 wherein said first user terminal is allowed to reproduce the digital sample preview data but, to reproduce the enciphered copyrighted digital data , is required to decipher the enciphered copyrighted digital data with the decryption key data,

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and wherein said second user terminal is allowed to reproduce the digital sample preview data but, to reproduce the enciphered copyrighted digital data, is required to obtain the decryption key data from said contents provider and then decipher the enciphered copyrighted digital data with the decryption key data.

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7. A copyrighted digital data management method wherein enciphered copyrighted digital data generated by enciphering chargeable copyrighted digital data using encryption key data, digital sample preview data generated from an outline of the copyrighted digital data at a non-chargeable level without

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means.

14. The user terminal according to claim 13, wherein,  
out of the data recorded in said data recording medium, the  
5 enciphered copyrighted digital data, digital sample preview  
data, and additional data may be copied to other user  
terminals.

15. A user terminal comprising:  
10 receiving means for receiving enciphered copyrighted  
digital data generated by enciphering chargeable copyrighted  
digital data using encryption key data, digital sample  
preview data generated from an outline of the copyrighted  
15 digital data at a non-chargeable level without enciphering,  
and additional data required for accounting, from a contents  
provider over a network;

recording means for recording the enciphered  
copyrighted digital data, the digital sample preview data,  
and the additional data in a data recording means;

20 reproducing means for reproducing the digital sample  
preview data recorded in said data recording means;

transmitting means for transmitting a data usage  
accounting procedure to said contents provider; and

deciphering means for deciphering the copyrighted  
25 digital data using decryption key data after said  
transmitting means transmits the accounting procedure to said  
contents provider and, in response, said receiving means  
receives from said contents provider the decryption key data  
for deciphering the enciphered copyrighted digital data over  
30 the network.

16. A data recording medium recording therein  
enciphered copyrighted digital data generated by enciphering  
chargeable copyrighted digital data using encryption key data,  
35 digital sample preview data generated from an outline of the  
copyrighted digital data at a non-chargeable level without

enciphering, decryption key data for deciphering the enciphered copyrighted digital data, and additional data required for accounting.

- 5           17. A data recording medium recording therein  
enciphered copyrighted digital data generated by enciphering  
chargeable copyrighted digital data using encryption key data,  
digital sample preview data generated from an outline of the  
copyrighted digital data at a non-chargeable level without  
10 enciphering, and additional data required for accounting.

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